

Air Force Nominee for the DoD Civilian Fire Officer of the Year Award
Ms Cindy R. Litteral - 21 CES/CEF, Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado

ACCOMPLISHMENTS: *2002 Air Force Space Command Outstanding Civil Engineer Civilian Manager*

- #1 of 43 civilian fire officers in Air Force Space Command; mastered her chosen career field like few others have
- Initiated first ever combined Mutual Aid Agreement with CO Springs Fire Department and five area military bases
- Enhanced CO State WMD response capabilities as Planning Team member of Multi-Agency Terrorism Taskforce
- Augmented HQ AFSPC IG Team; valued expertise brought to bear for MARE, ORI, and Compliance Inspections
- Hand-picked for site support at Thule AB; firefighter ops, health, safety, and code compliance issues now on track
- Trained, equipped, deployed warriors for 1,208 man-days TDY supporting Operations SOUTHERN WATCH and ENDURING FREEDOM while maintaining home station ops; led largest number of military firefighters in AFSPC
- Justified hiring one fire inspector and four FACC operator over hires; critical manning during AEF deployments
- Resurrected dead IMA program, got rid of liabilities, and recruited 12 trained, productive members that get results

JOB PERFORMANCE: *2002 Space Command Sanborn Award winner; flight soared under her leadership*

- Responded to 700+ aircraft, structural, mutual aid, civil unrest, medical, haz mat, and terrorist threat emergencies
- DCG IC when white powder thrown in commissary by unknown person; successful ID and containment--no injury
- IC at 600-acre wildland fire east of Peterson; protected civilian and USAF resources with zero property fire loss
- Led move into new 32K square foot, \$7M fire station; new kitchen appliances and cookware, telephones and TV in private bedrooms, outdoor barbeque grill, sand volleyball pit, training center, physical fitness room; best in the AF
- New \$35K console, \$12K Dictaphone recorder, computers, phone system and cooking/eating facility in FACC
- Start to finish teamwork with interior designers materialized her vision for \$82K of new furniture and artwork
- Turned Peterson into regional fire training center with Texas A&M Fire Academy; all Inspector, Instructor, Officer courses taught in-house; five area military installations, the city and county all benefit--zero TDY dollars spent!

TECHNICAL COMPETENCE: *21 SW nominee for Air Force Association Program Specialist Award*

- Director/lead instructor of Peterson Aircraft Crash School; trained 375 USAF, ARC, foreign nationals (Antarctica), State and County firefighters to Airport Firefighter--four military bases, 19 civilian fire departments, 440 live fires!
- Hosted Wildland Firefighting (Red Card) Class with CO Springs fire department; 16 USAF firefighters certified
- Worst wildland fire in CO history; new skills supported 138K acre Hayman fire suppression effort in three areas
- Taught Haz Mat Awareness to 14 Cimarron Hills firefighters, HazMat Technician to 23 firefighters, High Angle, Trench, and Confined Space Rescue courses for 40 firefighters from three bases, and CPR to 175 21 SW personnel
- Coordinated and conducted two National Registry Emergency Medical Technician-B courses for 25 firefighters
- EET member for CO Springs WMD interagency exercise; over 200 from the base, city, and county participated

LEADERSHIP ABILITY: *Her flight nominated by Space Command for CINC's Installation Excellence Award*

- Filled top leadership positions as new Deputy Fire Chief, acting Fire Chief and Training Chief for most of FY 02
- Led 78 firefighters manning 13 fire vehicles in two fire stations; provided 24/7 protection for 12K base personnel 405 facilities, 27 mission assigned aircraft, and over 1.2M annual customers at the CO Springs Municipal Airport!
- Planner/EET with TX A&M WMD Training team; DoD pilot program taught two weeks of base training/exercises
- Elected Peterson AFB Firefighters Association President two years running; promoted people and family programs
- Led Peterson charge in CO Springs Pikes Peak or Bust Rodeo Parade with two fire vehicles and eight firefighters
- Founded new eight person Fire Department Color Guard team; augmented 21st SW during many civil functions

INITIATIVE: *21 SW Civilian of the Quarter, Oct - Dec 2002; unbridled enthusiasm and drive*

- Designed/saw through to completion new fire station flagpole, firefighter memorial plaza and 25-year time capsule
- Conducted firefighter dedication, flag ceremony, and honored past fire chiefs and future leaders at fire station flagpole; obtained fire memorabilia from every major base throughout Space Command to place inside capsule
- Owns two busiest miles of highway in CO Springs for Adopt-A-Highway program; road appearance reflects pride
- Visited children with diseases in area hospitals as "Little Eaglet", a new children's book character; promoted their care with TV appearances at KKTV in CO Springs with a viewing audience of over 700K people in 11 counties
- First to use Biotech trailer and Decon 4214 Chemical Warfare Agent Decon units; equipping for war on terrorism
- 21 SW Color Guard Commander for disposal of old, torn U.S. flags; conducted dignified flag burning ceremonies

RESOURCEFULNESS: *Led flight to win Air Force nomination for National Public Service Excellence Award*

- 4-star involvement; author and color guard commander of AFSPC 9/11 remembrance ceremony at wing flagpole
- Spearheaded Peterson AFB drive for 2002 Muscular Dystrophy Association fundraiser; raised \$4.6K in three days
- Completed \$166K radio upgrade project a year ahead of schedule; tied Peterson to mutual aid partner frequencies
- Emphasized kids fire prevention/safety training programs; 1K trained with new \$32K Surrey Fire Safety House
- Secured two \$25K GSA tow vehicles to provide transportation of our foam, decon, and HazMat response trailers
- Acquired two \$300K ARFF vehicles at zero cost from CO DOT for 60-day Aircraft Crash School she teaches here

Winner

Air Force Nominee for the DoD Military Fire Officer of the Year Award
Technical Sergeant Michael L. Rosser – Eglin Air Force Base, Florida

3.5
2.9
6.4/30

ACCOMPLISHMENTS: *Top military fire officer in Eglin's 240-person fire department--truly tested by fire*

- Won praise as fire protection flight, 96 CES and 96 CEG Outstanding NCO of the Quarter Jul-Aug 02--stellar!
 - Team Eglin NCO of the Quarter Jul-Aug 02--lofty achievement withstood the charge in the battle for excellence
 - 2002 NCO of the Year for largest fire dept. in USAF--superior job performance/community clearly set him apart
 - Board members unanimously chose him as **2002 NCO of the Year for 96 CES and 96 CEG**--exudes excellence
 - Superb NCO power helped 96 CEG become AFMC's 2002 Outstanding Civil Engineer Unit (large base category)
 - Drove major successes helping 96 CES win first ever award as 96 ABW Squadron of the Year--drop dead effective
 - Earned AFAM for outstanding performance building secret base in support of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM
- 4*

JOB PERFORMANCE: *Superb fireground leader--TSgt who thinks and performs like a seasoned SNCO*

- Expertly commanded pilot recovery, fire safety and neutralization of explosive components after an F-15 crashed on the runway--managed multi-agency, after-hours response earning 96 ABW/CC coin for numerous firefighters
 - Commanded response for seizure patient who stopped breathing--his team saved life through artificial respiration
 - Mitigated situation involving suspicious powder at base credit union--tactfully led effort to isolate employees and customers; locate/test the substance and ease tensions after termination--detailed protocols followed precisely
 - Resupplied fire trucks combating fully engulfed aircraft fire within 30 seconds--immediate extinguishment assured
 - Supervised treatment of unconscious diabetic in insulin shock--patient regained consciousness and fully recovered
 - Directed aggressive offensive attack during an F-15 brake/wheel assembly fire--ensured immediate fire suppression and pilot egress--coordinated effort prevented fire spread and pilot injury--limited damage to \$35K
- 3*

TECHNICAL ABILITY: *Brings unmatched technical expertise to the fight and always produces great results*

- Consistently displayed exemplary mentorship/contagious discipline/unparalleled warrior spirit/natural leadership
 - Completed SNCO Academy by correspondence--honed his already sharp leadership skills--90% academic score
 - Completed 9 hours towards B.A. degree in Business Management at UWF--skills employed with great results
 - Holds A.S. degree in Fire Science/now in final 6 hours for A.A. degree in Industrial Management at OWCC
 - Earned IFSAC/DoD certification for Mobile Water Supply and completed Block III Base Level Supply Course
 - Completed US Army Ranger swift water rescue training and Florida Boat Safety Education Course--rescue ready
 - Completed 40-hour SNCO Induction Seminar--broadened awareness of enlisted issues and SNCO expectations
- 4*

LEADERSHIP ABILITY: *Spectacular NCO leader/mentor--set the standard; exceeded mission requirements*

- Expertly led/managed a 100-person shift/7 fire stations/57 vehicles protecting \$13B in real property assets for 3 MAJCOMS/5 operational wings/45 associate units--truly agile combat support by largest fire flight in DoD
 - Excelled as volunteer instructor at Leadership/Professional Development Seminar--shared management expertise
 - Hand-picked to brief Under Secretary of the Air Force on manning concerns for stressed career fields--his candor and experience provided direct/honest answers in support of vital studies--critical issues identified and addressed
 - Used prior US Marine experience posing as aggressor for new Ground Combat Training Squadron's "Brave Defender" program--supplied realistic attack/base defense training for SFS troops headed to war--leads by doing
 - Treated rider with fractures from a motorcycle crash--made the scene safe/stabilized spine until medics arrived
- 4*

INITIATIVE: *Consistently uses his time, energy and talent to make a difference in the lives of others*

- Key worker for Combined Federal Campaign--achieved 100% contact/50% participation of 100-person shift raising \$5K and earning recognition as outstanding key worker--received letter of appreciation from AAC/CC
 - Chaperoned 21 children on field trip to National Museum of Naval Aviation--shared knowledge and ensured safety
 - Helped erect 100 tents for largest Earth Day celebration in USA--thousands educated on top environmental issues
 - Earned First Sergeant's coin for razor sharp military bearing as guidon bearer at 96 ABW/CC change of command
 - Participated in annual golf outing to raise \$1,600 for Adopt-A-Family program--holiday joy for five needy families
 - Recognized by 96 SVS/CC as outstanding youth center baseball coach--letter of appreciation was well earned
- 3*

RESOURCEFULNESS: *Totally devoted NCO with unparalleled leadership abilities--makes the mission happen*

- Devised plan to deliver 300K gallons of water for purification at deployed combat base--allowed civil engineers to crate potable water for over 1,500 personnel--innovative effort provided unquestionable security and public health
 - Installed four 50K gallon fuel bladders then volunteered to drive R-9 refueling truck to fill bladders--aggressive effort preserved security at forward combat support base by eliminating on-base presence of suspect contractors
 - Overcame major problems during bare base construction--erected 100 temper tents, 2 hygiene facilities, "9-1" dining facility, cleared three 20-foot ducts and installed 6,000 feet of power cable--superb combat engineering
 - Orchestrated plan to use vehicle headlights to illuminate runway at deployed base after failure of airfield lighting system--provided critical light for safe recovery of four C-130 aircraft unable to divert to other airfields--ingenious!
- 3*

Wimmer

Air Force Nominee for the DoD Fire Department of the Year Award Kadena Air Base Fire Department - Kadena Air Base, Japan

CUSTOMER SERVICE: *Rock-solid dedication... flight key in squadron winning PACAF's Curtain Award (Large base)*

- Protected those who defend America/Japan at the finest combat wing in the AF... 7,000 war fighters generated 43,383 aircraft operations... 3800 responses... 1321 aircraft stand-bys... 52 fires threatened \$8B wing assets... fire loss just \$36K... awesome!
- Developed a Kadena F&ES Standards of Coverage... profiles customer expectations we achieve... wing approved
- Met communities needs... founding father of First Responder IPT... EOD/Fire/Medical/SF resolved 5 force protection issues
- Aggressive fire attack saved two multiplex military family (MFH) housing facilities on two separate occasions... saved \$650K
- Superb on-scene command after a tornado ripped through MFH... sheltered 35 children and stabilized 6 overturned vehicles
- Crisis plan informed parents of situation involving a suspicious package at Kadena Middle School affecting 900 students... parental panic averted... low key response to suspected incidents calmly reduced public anxiety after 9/11
- Joined fight on terrorism... 59 firefighters (F/Fs) deployed... 5310 man-days supported Air/Space Expeditionary Force (AEF)
- Provided PACOM support... 6 firefighters deployed to Ulchi Focus Lens (Korea)/Cope Tiger (Thailand) trained 42 LN F/Fs
- International mutual aid... 41 Kadena F/F's rapidly extinguished an out of control salvage yard fire... 250 people in smoke/nine residences and hotel... protected people and saved business... saved Chatan-Cho's Fire Celebration... Mayor lauded 18 WG/CC
- Synergetic teamwork... security forces/firefighter and medics revived 19-month-old child who had drowned in backyard pool
- Life savers... responded to 41 motor vehicle accidents on/off base... treated 51 patients... jaws-of-life extrication saved victim
- Saved \$24M Marine AV-8 with both main landing gear on fire... fire companies rapidly egressed pilot and extinguished fire
- Diverted environmental disaster... Japanese C-2 landed with fuel drain open... quick response and strategic boom placement contained 400 gallon spill and prevented fuel from entering storm drains... Kadena Cho Mayor praised base's effort
- Outstanding teamwork... responded to 30' slide collapse... established triage and provided care for 12 injured school children
- Contractor unearthed 325 UXO's... F/Fs rigged rope haul system... cut UXO removal 20 hours... lauded by OSC

INNOVATIVENESS: *Outstanding in every aspect... flight possesses a "Can-Do" attitude and personifies excellence*

- Convinced PACAF/CC to support groundbreaking emergency response program... integrated GEOBASE and GPS... state of the art system provides real time tracking of emergency apparatus... reduced response times by 7%... companies on-target
- True leaders... refined C² protocols after 9/11... smart question checklist adopted by other US bases... averted public over retort
- Flightline extinguisher replacement program... reduced maintenance costs and saved over \$123K in transportation costs alone
- Aggressive fire prevention program... utilized fire safety house to train 2,000 children island wide... 50% increase from FY01
- Hard-working... 121 firefighters completed 49 CDC's, in-house HazMat, and vendor training to earn 152 DoD certificates
- Championed interservice auto extrication training... 60 Air Force, Marine Corps and Army F/Fs trained... capability increased

IMPLEMENTED QUALITY MANAGEMENT PRINCIPLES AND INITIATIVES: *World-class resourcefulness*

- Guarantee mission continuation during AEF... 8 LN F/Fs certified T-t-Ts in First Responder EMS... 54 students trained
- Contracted USAFE Silver Flag to teach Advanced Rescue course to 20 LN F/Fs... increased capability... saved \$72K in TDY
- Hosted MTT Fire Inspector I and II courses... 40 personnel DoD personnel certified from 4 departments... saved \$120K
- WESPAC host for Automated Civil Engineer System (ACES) Distance Learning course... 20 F/Fs trained... saved \$30K
- Exceptional support to PACAF's Silver Flag... provided equipment, personnel, and experience... 182 PACAF firefighters received live fire training... Fire Chief briefs AEF and AF Readiness issues... verified by high critiques
- HAZMAT guru's... purchased \$145K of WMD resources and \$133K decon trailer... enhanced WMD capabilities 80%

QUALITY OF LIFE INITIATIVES: *First Responders taking care of each other... where they work, live and play*

- Hammered out \$1.8M for QoLE upgrades... 16,250 sq ft bunkroom... corrected seven NFPA 1500 deficiencies at 4 stations
- Realistic budget got results... response tools reliable/dependable... \$750K furniture/equipment for new station ready for EOY
- Kadena's Emergency Response (ER) Tool is currently being marketed by HQ AFCEA as a "must have" tool for installation disaster response forces... demonstrated to AF MAJCOMs at DoD Fire and Emergency Conference
- Teamed w/Geospatial Info Center to create pre-fire plan program... 127 accurate down to inch drawings carried on C² laptops
- Proactive operations... dedicated rehab team... auto-responds to major incidents w/shelters, cooling and rehydration capability

OTHER: *Foot prints all over the community.... Ready, willing and able to meet all of tomorrow's challenges head-on*

- Kadena Fire and Emergency Services won more wing and higher level awards than any other squadron at Kadena
 - AF Lance P. Sijan award winner, DoD Military Fire Fighter of the Year, Frank R. Cox Award winner, PACAF Civilian Fire Officer of the Year, PACAF Civilian Fire Fighter of the Year, six CES/CEG winners, two BTZ winners... proven excellence!
- Cumulative effort helped 18 WG/CEG/CES receive "Excellent" during PACAF/IG Unit Compliance Inspection...
- Community mentors... 45 HS seniors spent their career day with us... insight will help students make future career decisions
- International stewards... 30 firefighters supported the Okinawa Special Olympics... senior NCO's pulled Courtesy Town Patrol... 12 firefighters preformed elementary school traffic patrol and 60 firefighters helped during Island-wide beach clean-ups
- Pure professionals... a regular show stop during base VIP tours... MAJCOM/CCs, congressman, and GOJ visitors are the norm
- Fill-the-Boot fundraising drive raised \$500... monies donated to the Fire Department New York 9-11 Disaster Relief Fund
- Our F/Fs & medics finish 2nd at EMT Rodeo 2002... verified war/peacetime mass casualty, and water rescue skills
- Hosted 152 Japanese firefighter students... 4 prefecture fire academies... awestruck by ARFF demonstration
- Started "First Responder" a weekly summary of fire/emergency events... keeps F/Fs and Fire Marshal in the know

Winner

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DOD Civilian Firefighter of the Year Award
Firefighter/EMT-D Elizabeth Sweeney, Fort Monmouth Fire & Emergency Services

Accomplishments

- Strong supportive member of 2001 US Army Fire Department of the Year
- Assisted with National Board on Fire Service Professional Qualifications Board accreditation
- Streamlined DA Regional Fire Academy course registration to be accomplished on-line
- Established budgetary controls over course manuals and materials so all class requirements were met
- Works diligently with Contract Management Division to ensure all funds transfers, for attending students of the DA Regional Fire Academy, were completed in an efficient and timely manner
- Organized the "off-duty" package for visiting students offering local attractions and sites to call on
- First female Volunteer Fire Chief for Monmouth County, New Jersey
- Coordinated multi-agency "National Night Out" for the borough of Union Beach

Job Performance

- Received County Response Award for 9-11-01: Following attacks on WTC was part of responding crew for medical & hazardous materials team for triage and decontamination of over 5,000 victims
- Outstanding performer as firefighter, EMS, rescue, WMD-Bioterrorism & HAZMAT responder
- Inspection Leader for fire prevention in 800 facilities (over 3 million sq ft) on 1600 acres of federal property
- Performed superbly as Acting Captain at numerous on and off-post incidents and responses
- Provides technical support to the NFPA 1500 committee for Army wide template

Technical Competencies

- DOD Certifications Fire Inspector II, Fire Officer II, Fire Instructor II, HAZMAT IC
- NJ Department of Health EMT-B, Defibrillator certified
- NJ Department of Community Affairs, Division of Fire Safety – Fire Official
- Trench Rescue Technician, Confined Space Rescue Operations, HAZMAT Team Technician
- Department of Justice – Weapons of Mass Destruction Emergency Responder
- DA Regional Fire Academy Instructor

58

Leadership Ability

- Assists in fire prevention and EMS support for major events
- Assistant Project Manager for self-help projects for the DA Regional Fire Academy
- Mentors firefighters on decision making processes for career progression course choices
- Serves on the New Jersey Division of Women in the Fire Service Committee
- Coordinates CPR classes for installation population to increase workforce emergency preparedness
- Upgraded Union Beach Fire Department capabilities while serving as Fire Chief

Initiative

- Single handedly acquired a FEMA \$110,000 grant for the Union Beach FD, one of few awarded in NJ
- Utilizes on post printing services to reduce expenditures at the DA Regional Fire Academy
- Recruits retired paramedics to instruct emergency medical services classes
- Assertively pursuing advanced fire service courses for self-improvement

Resourcefulness

- Utilizes national insurance agency "Be Cool About Fire Safety" program resulting in savings of \$25,000
- Coordinated NJ State Police NorthStar Trauma Helicopter for landing zone training
- Designed and built extinguisher demonstrator to educate employees on use of hand-held extinguishers
- Utilizes Sparky costume, Pluggie the Hydrant robot, and no-cost FEMA material for education
- Networks at national conferences to acquire free education materials and course outlines for Department

Werner **Air Force Nominee for the DoD Military Firefighter of the Year Award**
Airman First Class Gregory A. White - Ramstein Air Base, Germany

ACCOMPLISHMENTS: *Accomplished goals w/ exacting effort & unlimited capacity; true proven ace performer*

- Superb performer! Key to 86 CEG capturing 2002 Curtin Award for Outstanding CE Unit; #1 in the USAF
- #1 of 12,000 troops! Selected 86 AW & Kaiserslautern Military Community "Airman of the Quarter" Sep-Dec 02
- Best of the Best! #1 of 230; ~~86 CES and CEG Airman of the Year~~; blew competition away during board interview
- Naturally selected as the Fire Department's "Military Firefighter of the Year" for 2002; our #1 out of 83 airman
- Insatiable potential! Achieved CCAF degree; tenaciously pursuing courses toward a Bachelor of Arts degree
- Pacesetter; completed 5-level upgrade training six months ahead of schedule with 93 percent on all course tests
- Attention to detail unequalled; entrusted to complete DoD fire activity reports; accuracy of critical data essential
- USAF's best! ~~Placed 1st in individual event; catapulted team to USAF Fire Fighter Challenge Championship~~

JOB PERFORMANCE: *Outstanding in every aspect; possesses a "Can-Do" attitude and personifies excellence*

- Responded to "unresponsive" infant who had been choking; tirelessly performed CPR and saved the baby's life!
- Performed extrication during auto accident; skillfully removed doors and windshield and safely freed two victims
- Lead firefighter during facility fire; advanced attack hose and extinguished the fire; efforts saved \$503K facility
- Rescue man during a kitchen fire; quickly removed thick smoke from the facility; actions limited damage to \$2K
- Took immediate action at an electrical fire on a C-130; quickly isolated fire source; actions saved a \$30M asset
- Disentangled airman who fell from C-5/broke leg; expertise allowed removal without additional damage to limb
- ~~Utilized Jaws-of-Life to remove mother/child from auto~~; skills expedited patients treatment/ambulatory transport
- Responded to fuel spill on C-130; quickly initiated containment of fuel; negated environmental contamination
- Instrumental in testing of 9K feet of fire hose; ensured compliance, safety and efficiency of firefighting capabilities
- Quickly evacuated 250 people after chemical spill; actions reduced exposure to hazardous fumes; outstanding job

TECHNICAL COMPETENCE: *World-class performer! Up and coming...task him and watch him follow through*

- Helped establish driver/operator obstacle course; enabled 9 troops to complete 5-level upgrade ahead of schedule
- Selfless; taught classes after duty hours; expanded capability by certifying six troops to earn their P-19 licenses
- Constantly seeks academic excellence; scored 91 percent on end-of-course test for challenging Water Tender CDC
- Vehicle test monitor; ensured 4 structural and 6 ARFF apparatus are tested/maintained in accordance with NFPA
- ~~Certified Critical Incident Stress Management facilitator~~; debriefed eight firefighters after traumatic aircraft crash
- Smart; mastered challenging P-23 drivers training course; scored a 97 percent; highest score in the flight to date
- Completed demanding Emergency Medical course; nationally certified; provides top-notch service to community

LEADERSHIP ABILITY: *Phenomenal leadership traits; consistently rallies team to achieve amazing results*

- Taught fire safety classes during annual Children's Fire Academy; thrilled 85 students and parents; huge success!
- Excellent CPR and Advanced First Aid instructor; certified 35 military and 21 home daycare providers; great job
- Certified Automatic External Defibrillator instructor; certified 15 firefighters on proper use; enhanced base safety
- ~~Team leader during Special Olympics~~; set up two events and participated as a "Buddy," major community impact
- Helped plan and organize retirement ceremony for a SNCO; ensured this affair was honorable and prestigious
- Sets the example; provided 15 hours support for Airman Against Drunk Driving; reduced drunk driving incidents
- Received letter of appreciation from 86 SVS; helped coordinate events during annual Spouse Awareness month
- Set up 2nd Quarter 86 CES Hail/Farewell; coordinated event for 250 personnel; event lauded by 86 CES/CC
- Encouraged camaraderie among peers; sold tickets for annual firefighter ball; event attended by 220 firefighters
- ~~Taught first aid and buddy breathing for a troop of 23 boy scouts~~; ensured all troops earned coveted merit badge

INITIATIVE: *Hard charging self-starter; ready, willing and able to meet all of tomorrow's challenges head-on*

- Took the lead; delivered and assembled 45 pieces of furniture at seven fire stations; upgraded living conditions
- Inventoried and organized \$50K in HAZMAT equipment; ensured all equipment readily available when needed
- Updated 7 facility pre-fire plans; concise building layouts and shutoff locations enhance emergency responses
- Spearheaded charitable fundraiser; raised \$800; money contributed to the victims/families of the 9-11 attacks
- Involved! Plays guitar during Ramstein Southside Chapel's Sunday morning services; entertains 100's weekly
- Organized and conducted Bible studies through Cadence Ministries; faithfully taught four classes to 150 personnel
- Rejuvenated flightline certification program; created continuity guide; reduced training time by over two days

RESOURCEFULNESS: *Multiple professional talents; utilizes full spectrum approach to getting the job done*

- Took the lead with self-help project; installed 3,000 square feet of carpet; enhanced morale for 232 firefighters
- Completed Space Shuttle rescue course; enabled flight to safely support NASA's frequent launch schedule
- Tireless service given to unit Booster Club during two major events; raised \$10K for unit activities to boost morale
- Taught stop, drop, and roll to over 400 school students; inventiveness made the lesson upbeat and entertaining
- Hand-selected to conduct fire department tour for 35 visiting dignitaries; ensured professional image conveyed
- Donated 18 hours to reading program at area schools; made reading fun for 40 third graders; positive example set
- Key volunteer; collected \$4K worth of food for CES Top IV "Fisher House food drive" assisted families in need
- Always out front! Supported 86AW reorganization ceremony; inspired eight of his peers to follow his example

Winner



Air Force Nominee for the DoD Heroism Award
Mr. Robert N. Young – Tinker Air Force Base, Oklahoma

What was the act of heroism? *Mr. Young put his life at risk to save drowning child!*

- On 29 April 2002, an eight-year-old neighborhood boy disappeared into a one-acre farm pond
- Receiving a call from his neighbors on an off-duty day, Mr. Young and a fellow firefighter responded to find the boy had disappeared under the water about 15 minutes before they arrived at the pond
- Without delay or concern for their personal safety, Mr. Young and his partner stripped off all unnecessary clothing on-the-run and dove into the pond to try to find the child

What was the risk to the rescuer? *Rescuers assumed serious dangers to accomplish timely search!*

- Large pond was not a public swimming spot and underwater hazards were unknown to the rescuers
- At a water temperature of only 45-degrees, rescuers knew that exposure and hypothermia were real dangers but didn't delay in entering the frigid pond without protective clothing or any safety equipment
- Even knowing the child had been underwater for at least 15 minutes, Mr. Young was undeterred by his knowledge that highly venomous water moccasins are very common to these types of farm ponds

What was the approach, method, technique etc.? *Knowledge, training, and experience paid off!*

- Using his swift-water rescue training, Mr. Young implemented an immediate search area grid that enabled the rescuers to find the boy within three minutes of the team's entering the water
- He immediately dove for the boy and, using a lifeguard-style recovery, swam with the victim 20 yards to the edge of the pond
- Once onshore, Mr. Young's elation was shattered when he realized the boy was in full arrest
- Although exhausted by the intense rescue and the frigid water, Mr. Young immediately began CPR on the boy, without looking for relief from the Emergency Medical Service unit that was now on scene

What was the outcome? *"Once engaged in an effort, Mr. Young never gives up"*

- Although the boy was underwater an incredible total of almost 20 minutes and was essentially dead by the time Mr. Young had brought him to shore, Neal Young would not give up on saving the boy
- As they loaded the boy into an air ambulance that responded during the event, the EMS team detected a heartbeat, indicating there was a chance of success
- The 8-year old boy has made a remarkable complete recovery and is now back at home with his parents

Other. *When recognized as a true hero, his only response was: "I just did what you would have done"*

- While off-duty from Tinker Air Force Base, Mr. Young is on-call with the Harrah OK Fire Department
 - 20-year veteran of the Harrah Oklahoma Fire Department where, as the Assistant Fire Chief, he typically contributes 200 hours a year to training the department
 - Mr. Young has never been paid for any of his volunteer service in those 20 years
- Mr. Young has served in the Tinker AFB Fire Department for more than 14 years
 - "He has performed in a most exemplary manner and has earned the admiration and respect of all its membership."
 - Station Chief for the Tinker Air Force Base Fire Department – "Mr. Young serves at a remote station and is an undisputed expert for tactical fire operations in the very complicated and demanding industrial area that includes the largest facility in the United States Air Force."
- Oklahoma State House of Representatives recognized Mr. Young's courageous act with the award of the **Oklahoma State Medal of Valor**
- City of Harrah Oklahoma awarded its Certificate of Recognition to Mr. Young for his heroic actions on 29 April 2002
- On 5 April 2003, Mr. Young will be recognized for the 2002 Heroism Award at the "Mid-Del-Tinker 100" Awards Banquet, attended by Oklahoma's national, state, and local governmental, civic, and corporate leaders (Mid-Del-Tinker is a non-profit community organization that annually recognizes its outstanding performers in its police and emergency services organizations)

Oratory